

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Linda Parker on June 23rd, 2009.

The replacement claims included below serve to correct two typographic errors introduced in the replacement claims of the 4/28/2009 Examiner's Amendment.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

(1) Replace claim 20 with the following claim:

A method for treating arthritis, comprising
administering a C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) or a derivative thereof to a patient having arthritis,

wherein the CNP is selected from the group consisting of CNP-22 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and CNP-53 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

and wherein the derivative is selected from the group consisting of a guanyl cyclase (GC-B)-activating peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 in which 1 to 10 amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added and having an activity of activating GC-B, and a GC-B-activating peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in which 1 to 10 amino acids are substituted, deleted or added and having an activity of activating GC-B,

and wherein said administration results in treatment of arthritis in said patient.

(3) Replace claim 26 with the following claim:

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A method for promoting the growth of articular chondrocytes, comprising administering a C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) or a derivative thereof to a patient having arthritis,

wherein the CNP is selected from the group consisting of CNP-22 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and CNP-53 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

and wherein the derivative is selected from the group consisting of a guanyl cyclase (GC-B)-activating peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 in which 1 to 10 amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added and having an activity of activating GC-B, and a GC-B-activating peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in which 1 to 10 amino acids are substituted, deleted or added and having an activity of activating GC-B,

and wherein said administration results in growth of articular chondrocytes in said patient.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary C. Howard whose telephone number is 571-272-2877. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary B. Nickol can be reached on 571-272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Z. C. H./

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Examiner, Art Unit 1646

/Bridget E Bunner/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1647